

MILESTONES

On the Road to Success



Winter 2003

Success Stories that tell about achievements and the overcoming of barriers are an important part of furthering the Inmate Employability Program. It provides hope and encouragement to future parolees working in PIA, and just as important it gives the PIA staff and supervisors feedback that their efforts to develop or enhance job skills have value.

"At PIA I learned how to maintain Job Discipline"

Positive things for a Former PIA inmate farm worker at Valley State Prison for Women. Eighteen months on the job as a forklift operator for a major merchandise shipping company. She recently received a pay raise and was successfully discharged from parole. She gave praise to her PIA supervisors saying that they taught her a lot. "At PIA I learned how to maintain job discipline, receive orders, and be patient." "I learned how to do things I don't like to do."

Anna

"PIA is an excellent program"

"Working in PIA kept my skills fresh and up to date"

Former PIA inmate laundry worker found work within a week of being paroled from Valley State Prison for Women. Working as an office manager for a small business owner she performs all the clerical duties. It is a big responsibility as her boss must spend most of the time out of the office. Being able to work independently is critical. "Working in PIA kept my skills fresh and up to date."

Debbie

Working two jobs, but holding on to the dream of eventually being able to work as a CNC machine programmer/ operator, a skill learned in the PIA wood furniture factory at the Correctional Training Facility. Working as a delivery driver for a tire company and working at a car wash keeps him busy, but is the means needed to support his family. The main goal for now is to complete parole. He will then have more options to seek employment by being able to relocate. "From my experience in PIA I can keep a 'job mentality' – getting up, going to work and working with people." "I loved my job with PIA, I was proud to be a CNC machine programmer – PIA is an excellent program,"

Mario